

On page 7, please substitute the following paragraph for the fifth full paragraph on the page:

a² When the ink cartridge 10, 20 is mounted onto the carriage 25 42, the printing control device 51 reads cartridge data stored in the semiconductor memory device 32 of the ink cartridge 10, 20 (Step B), and data indicative of the time of attachment is stored onto the semiconductor memory device 32 of the ink cartridge 10, 20 (Step C), and then it is judged from the number of reproducing time whether or not the cartridge is one to be reproduced (Step D). If the cartridge is one to be reproduced, the control data is adjusted (Step E).

On page 8, please substitute the following paragraph for the second full paragraph on the page:

a³ The ink in the ink cartridge 10, 20 is consumed as a result of the printing operation and the clogging prevention operation, and when the ink end is detected (Step H), data indicative of the time of the ink end is stored as cartridge data (Step I) in the semiconductor memory device 32 of the ink cartridge 10, 20 under the control of the printing control device 51. When attaching the ink cartridge, it is judged from the number of reproduction read (Step J) whether or not the next reproduction is possible (Step K), whether or not the cartridge container has reached the limit of the lifetime (Step L), whether or not a predetermined time period has elapsed after the ink end of the ink cartridge was detected (Step M), and whether or not the environment of use, monitored by the use environment detection means 56, has adversely affected the ink cartridge (Step N).

[On page 9, please substitute the following paragraph for the second full paragraph on the page:

Q4 According to the embodiment described above, the semiconductor memory device 32 stores therein fixed data such as production date, lifetime, the possible number of reproduction, and the other data such as the actual number of reproduction applied to the subject ink cartridge, cleaning condition during the reproduction of the ink cartridge, maintenance condition such as exchange of parts, the latest usage time of the ink cartridge, the time of the ink end, the usage condition or environment of the ink cartridge. In addition, the memory device may also store therein a preset minimum ink amount to be held in the ink cartridge. That is, the minimum amount of ink is stored at the time when the ink cartridge is shipped from the factory, and the residual amount of ink when the ink cartridge is mounted on the printing device is recorded. Those data are read out to prevent the printhead from being damaged.

[On page 11, please substitute the following paragraph for the third full paragraph on the page:

Q5 Under the operation as described above, when both the ink cartridges contain therein sufficient amount of ink, the cleaning control device 57 executes a normal cleaning operation which requires relatively large quantity of ink (STEP M). After the normal cleaning operation is finished (STEP N), the process goes back to STEP A.

[IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims: